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Purchase a gun for someone who can't and buy yourself 10 years in jail.

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Firearms Industry, U. S. Attorney, ATF and Local Media Join Forces to Stop Illegal Purchases of Firearms in Indiana

"Purchase a gun for someone who can't and buy yourself 10 years in jail."

Indianapolis, IN —Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana; representatives from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); and the firearms industry's non-profit trade association, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), today jointly announced a major campaign to reduce significantly the illegal straw purchases of firearms in Indiana. The program, called *Don't Lie for the Other Guy*, was developed to educate federal firearms licensees (FFLs) on how to better detect and deter potential straw purchases and to raise public awareness that it is a serious crime to purchase a firearm for someone who cannot legally do so. *Don't Lie* follows another successful firearms industry program, *Partnership for Progress*,

which held a seminar last month in the greater Indianapolis area and was attended by more than 135 dealers and their employees.

The campaign drives home the message that anyone attempting an illegal firearm purchase faces a stiff federal penalty: **Purchase a gun for someone who can't and buy yourself 10 years in jail.**

ATF, in a National Firearms Law Review Seminar, stated that over 99 percent of FFLs are law-abiding. According to a Department of Justice (Bureau of Justice Statistics) report, less than 8.5 percent of guns used in crimes are purchased at retail stores.

Referrals by the ATF for the prosecution of gun crimes have almost tripled in recent years, continuing an upward trend that began in 1997. In fiscal year 2005, ATF initiated close to 30,000 investigations for firearms-related offenses, ultimately leading to more than 8,300 convictions. Furthermore, ATF referred 3,253 defendants for prosecution in firearms trafficking investigations, representing a 10 percent increase over 2004. Correspondingly, ATF investigations resulted in the conviction of more than 1,440 firearms traffickers in 2005, an increase of 14 percent over the previous fiscal year.

“Licensed gun dealers will not sell firearms to people who by law are prohibited from acquiring and/or possessing firearms. When a person buys a firearm for someone who legally can't buy firearms, that is called a straw purchase,” said United States Attorney Susan W. Brooks. “Don't lie for the other guy because straw purchasers are prosecuted in the Southern District of Indiana.”

The ATF is on record as saying, “The *Don't Lie for the Other Guy* program is vital in educating FFLs and their employees on how to recognize and deter the illegal purchase of firearms through straw purchases. This program is an important tool for ATF as we pursue our mission of preventing terrorism, reducing violent crime, and protecting the public.”

“This program has been welcomed by FFLs as a valuable educational tool to better enable them to spot would-be straw purchasers and prevent illegal firearm sales,” said Doug Painter, president

of NSSF. “Our goal in reaching out to the public is to let them know they are committing a serious crime by attempting to purchase a firearm for someone who cannot legally possess one. We applaud and appreciate the support of the United States Attorney, the ATF and local media for stepping up to lead this effort.”

The campaign will visit FFLs in Indiana to distribute *Don’t Lie* retailer kits. Each kit contains a video and informational brochure for storeowners and their staff as well as point-of-purchase displays aimed to raise public awareness and deter this illegal activity. United States Attorney Brooks will also serve as a spokesperson in a television public service announcement that delivers the *Don’t Lie* message.

Lawrence G. Keane, firearms industry spokesman, and senior vice president and general counsel of the NSSF, is available for interviews upon request.

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Don’t Lie for the Other Guy is a joint program of the ATF, NSSF and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Project Safe Neighborhoods (a program that according to the ATF’s 2005 Annual Report led to a 50 percent drop in firearms related violence during it’s first four years, 2001 – 2005).

Funding for the program comes from a grant for the United States Department of Justice and NSSF. This joint funding provides for program administration, media outreach and ongoing firearm retailer education. ATF will continue to work with retailers in their efforts to identify and deter straw purchases.



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